

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 OES-06 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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TAGS: ETEL, HA

SUBJECT: AID DEMONSTRATION AND FOLLOW-ON PROGRAM IN ADVANCED
TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS AS THEY RELATE TO PROBLEMS OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

REF: (A) STATE 113800, (B) STATE 171005

1. SUMMARY. WE ARE MOST GRATIFIED THAT AID PROPOSES
DEMONSTRATION TAKE PLACE IN HAITI DURING THIRD OR FOURTH
WEEK OF OCTOBER. WE THEREFORE WILL PROCEED, AS AUTHORIZED,
TO MAKE FIRM OFFER OF DEMONSTRATION FOR TIME FRAME
SPECIFIED. NOT ONLY IS THIS PROGRAM HIGHLY RELEVANT TO
HAITI'S URGENT DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS, BUT IT WOULD PROVIDE
SIGNIFICANT AND TIMELY SUPPORT TO THIS GOVERNMENT'S MAJOR
INVESTMENT IN AN EARTH SATELLITE SYSTEM WHICH RECENTLY
BECAME OPERATIONAL AND IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT TAKES THE
KEENEST PERSONAL INTEREST. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS ON POINTS RAISED REFTEL (A).

3. MISSION'S RECOMMENDATION ON INCLUSION OF HAITI IN
DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

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(A) WE WOULD ANTICIPATE COMPLETE GOVERNMENT COOPERATION IN GUARANTEEING PROMPT CUSTOMS CLEARANCE OF EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL IN AND OUT OF THE COUNTRY. DIRECT PRESIDENTIAL INTEREST WOULD ENSURE EXPEDITIOUS AND EFFICIENT HANDLING.

(B) SIMILARLY, MISSION IS CONFIDENT IN ITS ABILITY TO SECURE TRANSPORT TO AND FROM IN-COUNTRY SITES, SHELTER TO PROTECT EQUIPMENT FROM THE ELEMENTS, 24-HOUR SECURITY TO PROTECT EQUIPMENT ON EACH SITE, AND POWER SOURCE FOR EQUIPMENT. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ESTIMATE OF OUR NEEDS, WE WOULD REQUIRE THE ASSISTANCE OF AN ADVANCE PERSON WHO WOULD ALSO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR THE DEMONSTRATION ITSELF, AS NOTED IN PARA 12(A)II, REFTTEL(A).

(C) WE FORESEE NO DIFFICULTY IN HAITI'S ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR NECESSARY COORDINATION OF EARTH STATION TRANSMITTAL FREQUENCIES. TELECO STAFF, TRAINED BY RCA CANADA TO OPERATE EARTH SATELLITE STATION, IS ALREADY ACCUMULATING EXPERIENCE IN DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS IN SYSTEM.

(D) WE ANTICIPATE NO POLITICAL SENSITIVITY HERE TO ISSUES SUCH AS US RIGHTS TO "REMOTE SENSE" A COUNTRY AND DISSEMINATE RESULTING DATA WITHOUT PERMISSION. LAST YEAR PRESIDENT DUVALIER ACCEPTED WITH PLEASURE AND LATER FRAMED, IN HIS PRIVATE OFFICE, A HIGH-LEVEL INFRA-RED PHOTOGRAPH OF HAITI TAKEN BY EARTH SATELLITE WHICH WAS PRESENTED TO HIM BY THE AMBASSADOR. INDEED, DUVALIER HAS INVESTED SUBSTANTIAL SUMS, OVER OPPOSITION OF MANY ADVISORS, IN HAITI'S EARTH SATELLITE SYSTEM, AND HE IS ONLY TOO ANXIOUS TO DEMONSTRATE THE PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF THIS NEW TECHNOLOGY TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES.

(E) BY THE SAME TOKEN, WE DO NOT CONSIDER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE TO THE US RIGHT TO BROADCAST UNCENSORED MATERIAL INTO THE COUNTRY PROVIDED, OF COURSE, SUCH MATERIAL DID NOT INCLUDE DIRECT ATTACKS UPON HAITIAN GOVERNMENT OR ITS POLICIES. THE GOVERNMENT HERE IS SENSITIVE TO PERENNIAL CHARGES BY HAITIAN EXILE GROUPS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY CERTAIN DISGRUNTLED US INVESTORS BEARING ON ISSUES OF EXPROPRIATION, HUMAN RIGHTS OR DUE PROCESS IN HAITI, AND WOULD OBVIOUSLY NOT WISH SUCH MATERIAL TO BE BROADCAST VIA EARTH STATION.

(F) GOVERNMENT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ALL TYPES OF TECHNOLOGY PRESENTED, INCLUDING REMOTE SENSING DATA, EARTH PHOTOGRAPHY, AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.

MAJOR IMMEDIATE INTEREST IS HOW EARTH STATION TECHNOLOGY CAN BE RELATED TO EFFORTS SUPPORTED BY SEVERAL MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL DONORS (I.E., WORLD BANK, IDB, UNDP, FRANCE, USAID) TO REDUCE 80 PERCENT ILLITERACY RATE THROUGH INNOVATIVE APPROACHES AFFECTING RURAL POPULATION.

(G) THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE HIGHLY INTERESTED IN THE DEMONSTRATION ITSELF, FOR REASONS OUTLINED ABOVE.

(H) THE COUNTRY TEAM IS CONFIDENT IT COULD PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY ASSISTANCE IN PREPARATION OF LOCAL LIFE SEGMENT (SEE BELOW).

4. CONTENT OF PROGRAM.

(A) CT IS FULLY PREPARED TO ASSIST HOST GOVERNMENT IN PREPARING LOCAL LIVE SEGMENT OF PROGRAM, INCLUDING HOST COUNTRY GREETING AND OFFICIAL COMMENTARY FROM CAPITAL TO IN-COUNTRY SITES.

(B) USIS AND OTHER CY PERSONNEL CAN ASSIST IN AUDIENCE SELECTION AND IN PUBLICITY.

(C) VOICE COMMUNICATIONS FROM PORT AU PRINCE TO PROVINCIAL CENTERS REMAIN UNCERTAIN, BUT FOR COMMUNITIES WITHIN A RADIUS OF 30 - 45 KILOMETERS FROM EMBASSY, OUR LOCAL RADIO NETWORK COULD BE EFFECTIVELY UTILIZED TO SUPPLEMENT TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

(D) COUNTRY TEAM RECOMMENDS THAT AMBASSADOR OFFER US BICENTENNIAL GREETING AND PARTICIPATE IN POSSIBLE PANEL DISCUSSION DURING LIVE PROGRAM SEGMENT.

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(E) WE WOULD ANTICIPATE NO DIFFICULTY IN ASSURING AN AUDIENCE OF 400 PERSONS, ASSUMING PROPER LIGHTING AND POSITIONING OF BOTH TELEVISION MONITORS. WE WOULD EXPECT HEAVY REPRESENTATION FROM KEY DEVELOPMENTAL MINISTRIES, INCLUDING AGRICULTURE, PUBLIC WORKS, EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND STATE PLANNING AGENCY.

(F) WE WOULD SUGGEST ONE SITE AT PORT AU PRINCE, A SECOND SITE AT CAPE HAITIEN, COVERING THE NORTH OF THE COUNTRY, AND A THIRD SITE AT LES CAYES IN THE SOUTHWEST PENINSULA.
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